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# Regional Council Activity Report

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August 1, 1998



## Executive Director's Report

We should all applaud the increase in federal funds that is anticipated to be received by the State of Arizona. Initial estimates from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) indicate that Arizona's annual average share of transportation spending will increase 57 percent, from \$256 million to \$403 million. There is a concern, however, that the amount returned to this region will not be proportional to the statewide increases.

According to the new law, federal funds suballocated to the region will not be calculated as they were in the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA). One question is whether the increases in funding levels to the State throughout TEA 21 categories will be high enough to increase the levels suballocated to the region. While the final suballocations to the region have yet to be finalized by FHWA, it is expected that significant partnering efforts with ADOT will be necessary to promote an equitable return of funding to the region.

The Regional Council is on record in support of ADOT efforts with Congress to ensure an equitable return of the State's contribution to the national Highway Trust Fund. TEA 21 addressed the so-called "donor/donee" issue, and Arizona is assured of receiving 90.5 percent of the amount it contributes to the Trust Fund. On July 22, 1998 the MAG Regional Council recommended that MAG work with ADOT to ensure that federal funding to the region is equitable and that the donor/donee fair share concept be applied to this metropolitan area.

There will be no meeting of the MAG Regional Council in August. Therefore, we will brief you on the progress of our efforts to secure an equitable share of TEA 21 funding in our September newsletter. The newsletter will be sent out shortly after the September 23, 1998 meeting of the MAG Regional Council.



## Regional Council Meeting Report July 22, 1998

### Amendment to the FY 1998-2002 MAG TIP to include seven new enhancement fund projects

The MAG Regional Council approved adding seven federal Fund Enhancement Projects to the Transportation Improvement Program for 1998. Projects to be added include the construction of a multi-use path linking existing ASU and Tempe bike lanes; pedestrian improvements to the capitol mall near 17th Avenue and Van Buren in Phoenix; removal of a billboard, addition of artwork, and pedestrian and bike improvements at 43rd Avenue and Grand in Glendale; construction of sidewalk and landscaping improvements along Calle Magdalena in Guadalupe; construction of multi-use path and addition of artwork along Litchfield Park Road from Indian School Road to Goodyear; construction of shoulder enhancements to provide safer bike lanes along Usery Pass Road in Maricopa County; and construction and/or improvement of bike lanes along the Rio Salado Central Avenue gateway between Jefferson Street and South Mountain Park in Phoenix.

For more information, contact Leslie Dornfeld, Regional Development Manager, 254-6300.

### Prioritized List of 10 Projects to Close Out Fiscal Year 1998.

The MAG Regional Council approved the following additional projects for funding with uncommitted FY 1998 Funds. These projects are listed in priority order for funding with money that becomes available:

Project	In Millions
1. Accelerate transit vehicles from FY 1999 .....	\$3.59
2. Accelerate the design of pedestrian projects .....	\$0.15
3. MAG transportation planning and air quality studies .....	\$0.50
4. Accelerate Tempe Traffic Control project from FY 2001 .....	\$1.60
5. Accelerate design of Chandler, Dobson Road bike project from FY 2001 .....	\$0.07
6. Accelerate design of Gilbert traffic signal project from FY 2002 .....	\$0.10
7. Increase federal share on Phoenix/Maricopa County Bell Road project .....	\$0.48
8. Accelerate MAG/RPTA Telecommuting/Telecommunications project from FY 2001 .....	\$1.32
9. Accelerate transit vehicles from FY 2000 .....	\$5.39
10. Accelerate transit vehicles from FY 2001 .....	\$5.63
Total .....	\$18.83

For more information, contact Paul Ward, MAG Transportation Programming Manager, 254-6300.

### **Approval of Process Enhancements for Programming MAG Federal Funds**

The Regional Council approved the following process enhancements for programming MAG federal funds: 1) Develop a more proactive community outreach; 2) Include early Regional Council guidelines for selecting projects; 3) Update the MAG Congestion Management System; 4) Undertake a more proactive effort in securing new transportation funding.

For more information, contact Terry Johnson, Transportation Planning Manager, 254-6300.



### **Upcoming Issues**

#### **Enhancement Funds**

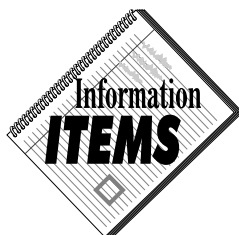
TEA 21 has increased the amount of funds available for enhancements, and now permits federal dollars to be used as match funds. In addition, flexibility has been added to the program. ADOT is anticipating an enhancement fund cycle this calendar year. Notice of the cycle will be provided to MAG Committees and to the general public.

For more information, contact Leslie Dornfeld, Regional Development Manager, 254-6300.

#### **Initiation of Next Phase of Vision 2025 Process**

The next Valley Vision 2025 Committee meeting is August 5, 1998. At this meeting, the Committee will initiate the next phase of the project and form subcommittees to develop topical reports that will be used to craft a draft vision. This phase is anticipated to take approximately eight months.

For more information, contact Leslie Dornfeld, Regional Development Manager, 254-6300.



### **Information Items**

#### **Status Report on Census 2000**

In July, the Census Bureau began to release address files to MAG member agencies. The member agencies will have 90 days to update the files and return them to the Census Bureau. These address files will then be used as the basis for distributing questionnaires for Census 2000. With each housing unit counted in the census worth about \$10,000 in federal and state funds to local governments in the decade following the census, it is crucial

that member agencies commit the resources necessary to thoroughly review the address list. MAG staff is working with members of its Population Technical Advisory Committee to facilitate the review of the address files.

For more information, contact Harry P. Wolfe, Aviation and Socioeconomic Program Manager, 254-6300.



## Upcoming Events

### Next Regional Council Meeting

The next Regional Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 23, 1998. Agenda items are expected to include: the ADOT Freeway Management System (FMS) and a request to move an FMS project from the Red Mountain interchange to the Price Corridor; requested changes to the MAG freeway program, including a request for an interchange on the San Tan Freeway at Hawes Road, and Phoenix's request for an interchange on the Pima Freeway at 56th street; an amendment to the Draft MAG 208 Water Quality Management Plan for the Villages at Desert Hills Wastewater Treatment Facility; and the Serious Area CO Plan.

For more information, contact James M. Bourey, Executive Director, 254-6300.

### MAG Public Meetings

MAG will conduct public meetings on its Long Range Transportation Plan and Transportation Improvement Program in September/October. Please look for notices of times and locations.

For more information, contact John Farry, Transportation Planning Program Manager, 254-6300.

### MAG Freight Forum

The Maricopa Association of Governments together with the Arizona Highway Users and the Arizona Motor Transportation Association will be holding an Arizona Freight Forum on Wednesday, October 7, 1998 from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. The purpose of the forum will be to solicit input from freight users on transportation needs in the region.

For more information, contact Harry P. Wolfe, Aviation and Socioeconomic Program Manager, 254-6300.

### **MAG Pedestrian and Bicycling Conference**

The Walking and Bicycling into the 21st Century Conference is scheduled for October 1 and 2, 1998. The conference will focus on making four-corner commercial intersections pedestrian and bicycle friendly. The conference will feature Dan Burden, Executive Director and founder of Walkable Communities, Inc., a nationally-known pedestrian and bicycle advocacy organization. The conference will result in recommendations for the I-10 and Elliot Road commercial intersection, and will include members of the Ahwatukee community.

For more information, contact Leslie Dornfeld, Regional Development Manager, 254-6300.